

City Swiss Club

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CITY SWISS CLUB.

The last Monthly Meeting of the City Swiss Club, which took place on Wednesday, July 5th, 1950, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, was both disappointing and amusing.

Disappointing, because the Committee, at the last minute, decided to ask Mr. Philip James, Art Director to the Art Council of Great Britain, to defer his promised address to the Members of the Club, on "Art in the Community" for reasons of a very poor attendance.

I think it was a wise decision, as only twenty-two members out of about 275(!) were anxious to hear something about Art; both the lecturer's name and his subject would have warranted a much larger attendance. Where oh where, were the "intellectuals" of the Club? No doubt, the holiday season is partly responsible for the poor attendance, and perhaps the all too many functions, which follow each other in "unabatable fury" must be blamed too; but all the same it was, frankly speaking, a "poor show" and those who had no valid excuse for their absence, should be truly ashamed of themselves.

It was, however, I am glad to say not an "undertakers feast," far from it, the 22 faithful ones sat down at a round table, beautifully decorated, to an excellent dinner.

Mr. Dupraz, the President of the Club, after having voiced his, and the Committee's great disappointment at the postponement of the would be lecturer's address, extended a hearty welcome to the few but select, who were in attendance, singling out three members of the Swiss Legation, who I am pleased to say, rarely miss an opportunity to attend the monthly gatherings of the Club.

The usual toasts were given and honoured, the toast to "La Patrie" was coupled with a certain canton, by one member of the company, who, owing to an over generous treatment at the cocktail bar, previous to the dinner, suffered a temporary lapse for which he later on humbly apologised. He was forgiven for this act which had a flavour of "Kantönligeist," and once again the atmosphere of good humour and geniality was restored.

Another member of the Club, in a generous mood, offered real Havana cigars, which prompted me to put back in my pocket the humble "Rössli Stumpe"; after all, when one dines at the "Dorchester" one ought to live up to it.

And now there is good news for the Ladies, time after time, proposals to ask the Ladies to some of our meetings, have been defeated by an overwhelming majority, but on this memorable evening, after a very short discussion it was unanimously decided to ask them to share our pleasure, it was a great tribute to the sweetest of the sweet, which even made the flowers which adorned the table, blush.

I think this was, to a certain extent, done to swell the attendance at the meetings, as those, who announce at home, that they are attending a City Swiss Club Meeting, and then do not turn up will now, *have* to come along. I think this is a very smart move.

Owing to the "Holy Year" the name of the Eternal City has come to the foreground, and another of our members, who recently visited Rome related some of his experiences and impressions which were listened to with great interest. No doubt, should further restrictions hamper the watch trade, and he should be thus compelled to go out of business, he will have an excellent chance to become a "Cooks Guide."

A rather gloomy account of the future of the Swiss Colony, was given by another member, which brought everybody almost to the verge of tears, we were threatened with bankruptcy, extinction and God knows what, and it took the President some time to cheer us up, and look for the silver lining of a dark cloud.

A further member made a heartrending appeal for better co-ordination in the Colony, which I sincerely hope will bear fruit.

I expect any moment that such pet subjects as the "Military Tax" and "Vote for Swiss Women" would come under discussion, but we were spared from further ordeals and more than one sigh of relief left our manly bosoms, when the President, after he closed and re-opened the Meeting at various stages, finally declared that we could go home.

ST.

THE RUTLI CLUB.

The Committee of "The Rutli Club", hereby give notice that the above named Club, will cease to exist as such on, or after June, 30th, 1950, the reason being due to the unfortunate lack of co-operation.

The existing funds in hand will be handed over to the "Swiss Benevolent Society" and the Swiss costumes and flags to the "Swiss Church."

O. M. Bolla, *President.*

N. Alleman, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

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